AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1.   (currently amended) An information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of information terminals by way of a network, comprising:

storing means for storing user information; wherein said user information includes a user ID, a password and an electronic mail address;

authenticating means for authenticating a user based on said user information stored in said storing means;

recording means for recording a request information transmitted by a first user authenticated by said authenticating means; wherein said first user is a customer and said request information is a request for an offer to sell goods matching the request to said customer;

supplying means for supplying a service list of said request information recorded by said recording means to a second user authenticated by said authenticating means in response to a demand entered from said second user;

said recording means recording service information transmitted by said second user in response to the request information in said service list; wherein said second user is a shop and said service information is said offer; wherein said service information includes an address information on the network for obtaining directly from said second user a desired information among said service information;

searching means for searching for service information corresponding to said request information and said user information of said second user recorded by said recording means, in response to a demand for a request list from said first user; and

transferring means for transferring said request list to said first user, wherein said

request list includes a mark which expresses the existence of service information corresponding to the request information; wherein said transferring means transfers said service information corresponding to said request information as a search result to said first user by an electronic mail based on said user information for the first user stored in said storing means.

Claims 2-6.   (canceled)

Claim 7.   (currently amended)   A method for processing information among a plurality of information terminals connected to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user information for each of said information terminals, wherein said user information includes a user ID, a password and an electronic mail address;

authenticating a user based on said user information stored in said storing means,

recording a request information transmitted by a first user authenticated in said authenticating step, wherein said first user is a customer and said request information is a request for an offer to sell goods matching the request to said customer;

supplying a service list of said request information recorded in said recording step to a second user authenticated in said authenticating step in response to a demand entered from said second user;

recording service information transmitted by said second user in response to the request information in said service list; wherein said second user is a shop and said service information is said offer; wherein said service information includes an address information on the network for obtaining directly from said second user a desired

information among said service information;

searching for service information corresponding to said request information and said user information of the second user recorded in response to a demand for a request list from said first user, and

transferring said request list to said first user, wherein the request list includes a mark which expresses the existence of service information corresponding to the request information; wherein said transferring step transfers said service information corresponding to said request information as a search result to said first user by an electronic mail based on said user information for the first user stored in said storing means.

Claims 8-12.   (canceled)